

RE-THINKING PRESCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A Positive and Proactive Approach to Preschool Attendance



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Indiana Institute on Disability and Community

Indiana's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities

Indiana University-Bloomington

Attendance is a Component of Family Engagement



Preschool Attendance is Linked to Child Outcomes

- Academic Performance
- Social Emotional Skills
- Later Attendance
- Habits
- Achievement Gap



Chronic Absenteeism Means Missing More than 10% of School



For On My Way Pre-K and EEMG Programs,
Missing More than 18 Days = Chronically Absent



Nationwide, 25% of Preschoolers are Chronically Absent



Low Income Children are 4 Times More Likely to Be Chronically Absent



What Should We Do?



Track Attendance

Identifying Who Needs Extra Support (AttendanceWorks.org)

Chronic absence (missed 10% or more of school) in the prior year, assuming data is available.

And/or during the beginning of the school year, student has:

In first 2 weeks

2 absences

**In first month
(4 weeks)**

2-3 absences

**In first 2 months
(8 weeks)**

4 absences



Approach Attendance Like a Pyramid



Base of the Pyramid = What We Do for All Families



School is welcoming
Families receive information
about importance



Programs Should Be Welcoming



Programs Should be Welcoming

- Always extend a greeting
- Phone calls are Important, but...
- A smile goes a long way
- That smile can be sensed over the phone
- Call people by name
- Offer assistance to waiting guests

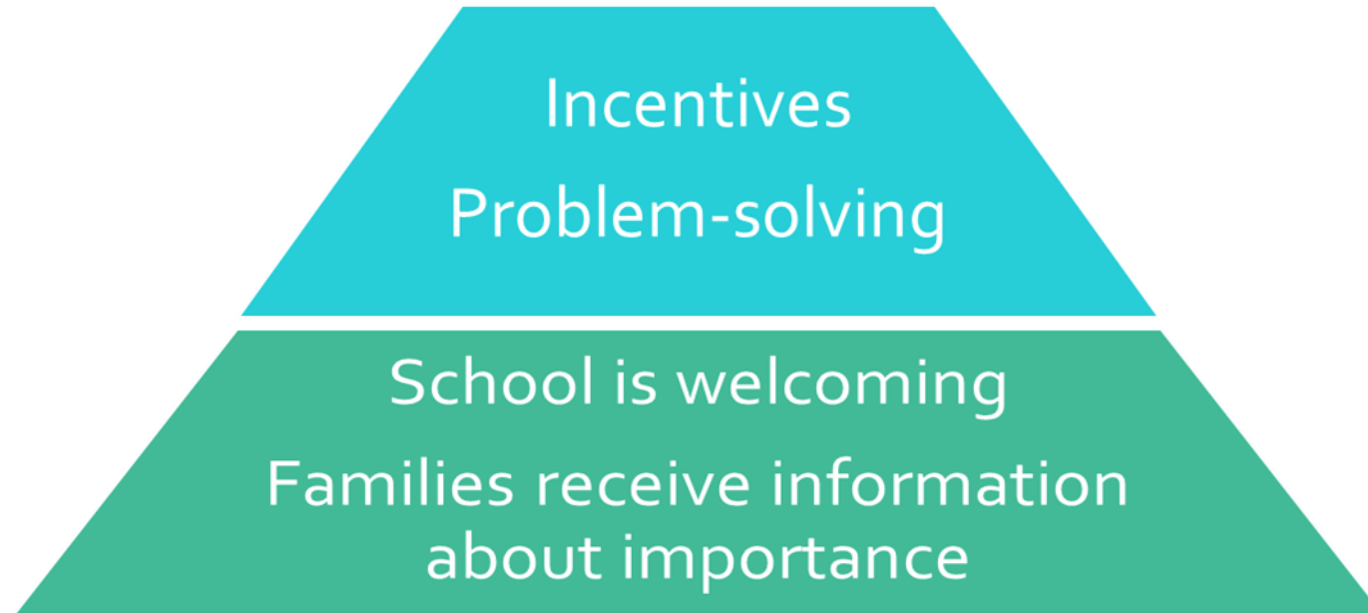
--From McCormick Center for Early Childhood Learning



Families Receive Information about Importance of Preschool Attendance



Middle of the Pyramid = What We Do for Families who Struggle with Attendance



Incentives



Problem-Solving



Top of Pyramid = What We Do for Families When Nothing Else Worked



Outreach/Community Referrals



Outreach/Community Referrals

- Individualize
- Provide Support
- Address barriers
- Follow-up



If Attendance is a Problem, Programs Need to Document



www.AttendanceWorks.org



Questions?

Questions about attendance research and resources?

kgherron@indiana.edu

Questions about On My Way Pre-K attendance policies?

Beth.barrett@fssa.IN.gov

